SMED Bill

† 1033. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the new definition of small industries in proposed Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill for the development of small and medium industries;

(b) whether any concrete steps have been taken up for fully safeguarding the interests of small and marginal undertakings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) In the Small and Medium Enterprises Development (SMED) Bill, 2005 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12th May 2005, a small enterprise is defined, in case of manufacturing enterprises, as an enterprise with investment in plant and machinery not exceeding 5 crore rupees and, in case of enterprises engaged in providing of services, as an enterprise with investment in equipment not exceeding 2 crore rupees.

(b) and (c) The SMED Bill, 2005 seeks to provide a legal framework for the promotion and development of small and medium enterprises and for enhancing their competitiveness. It has several provisions towards achieving their objectives, such as those relating to -

(i) schemes and programmes for promotion and development of small enterprises (clause 9);

(ii) credit facilities to small and medium enterprises (clause 10);

(iii) procurement preference policy to facilitate marketing of products manufactured by small enterprises (clause 11);

(iv) without in any way compromising the security, safety and welfare of workers, reducing the rigor of Inspector Raj through simplified inspection procedure under certain labour laws (clause 15);

(v) maintenance of simplified records and filing of simplified returns (clause 16); and

(vi) preventing delayed payments (chapter VI).

The provisions (of this Bill) applicable to small enterprises also apply to tiny (or micro) enterprises.

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.